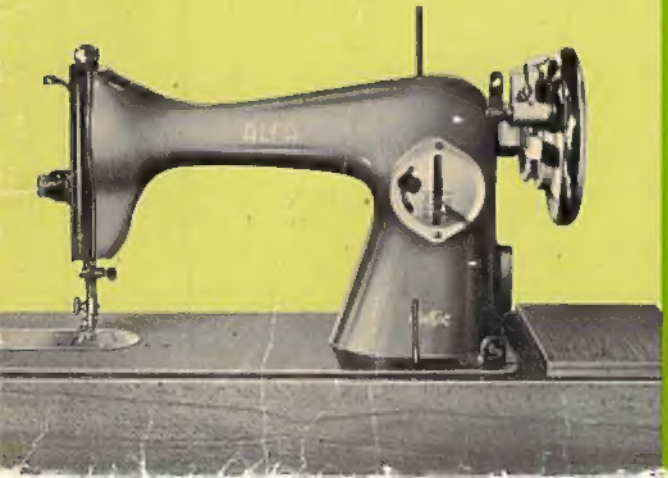

ALFA

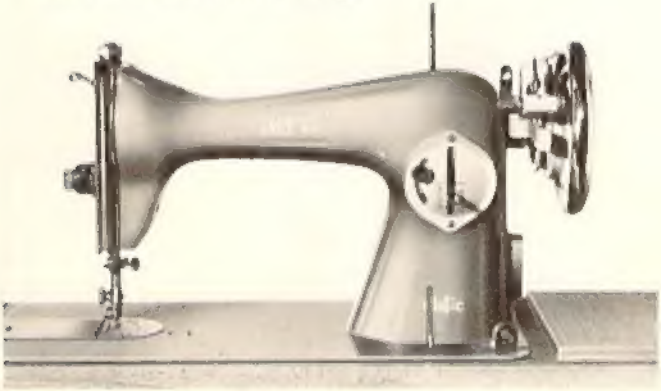
INSTRUCTION BOOK FOR MODEL 44



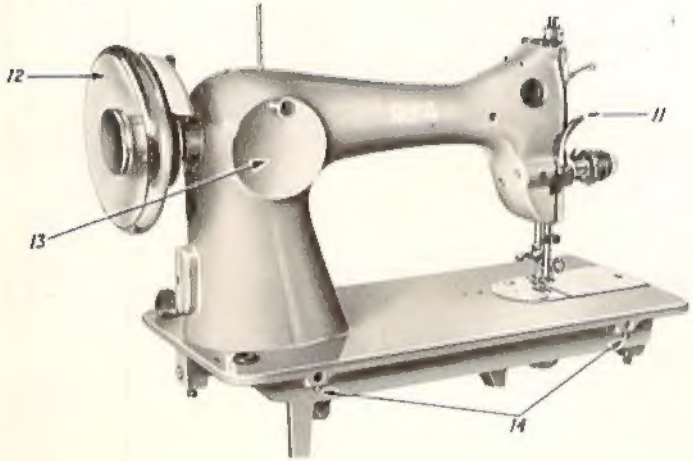
THIS IS YOUR ALFA

INTRODUCING YOU TO BETTER SEWING.....

Your **ALFA** sewing machine is designed to carry out a wide variety of sewing tasks, simply and with maximum efficiency. All that is required of you is that you get to know the simple rules for operating and maintaining your **ALFA** with the aid of this Instruction Book which has been compiled with considerable care. It's worth your while to study it well and make the most of your machine.
Here's to better-than-ever sewing!



CONTENTS



11.—Presser Foot Lever.
12.—Balance wheel.
13.—Back plate.
14.—Base or cabinet latch fastening screws.

THE BALANCE WHEEL

The Balance Wheel controls the movement of the needle. It is designed to enable you to disconnect the stitching mechanism of your machine when winding the bobbin or at any other time when you want to stop the needle operating. To do this, hold the Balance Wheel still with your left hand and turn the Inner Knob (1) towards you with your right hand. To reconnect the stitching mechanism, you simply reverse this operation as shown in this illustration.

Note: *When sewing, winding bobbin or changing needles, always turn the Balance Wheel towards you.*

TO CHANGE THE NEEDLE

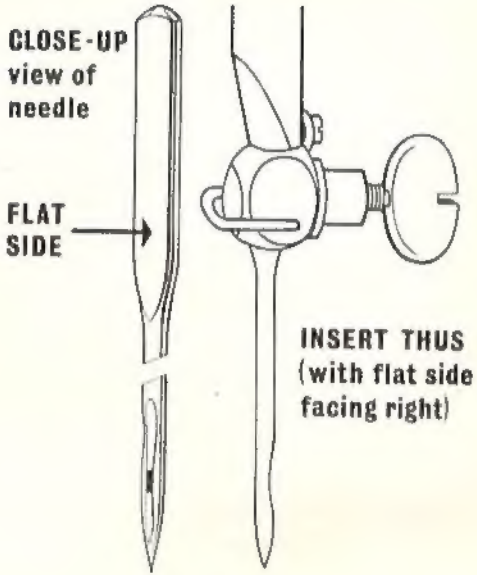
The Presser Foot should be down. (It is raised and lowered by means of the Presser Foot Lever).
Raise the needle to it's highest point by turning the Balance Wheel towards you. Loosen the screw on the right hand side of the needle bar, and remove the old needle sliding the new one up in its place—flat side facing right.
Then tighten the screw firmly to clamp it securely in position.

Change your needle when:

a) it is blunt, bent, broken or damaged.

b) different thicknesses of material are being used.

For best results, change your needle often.



FABRICS NEEDLES THREADS

GUIDE

Special care must be taken with the choice of thread and needles suitable for the fabrics to be used.

This chart shows recommended sizes of needles and various threads.

When buying new needles ask for either system 15 x 1 or type 705 H.

Needle Number 70 - for fine sewing.

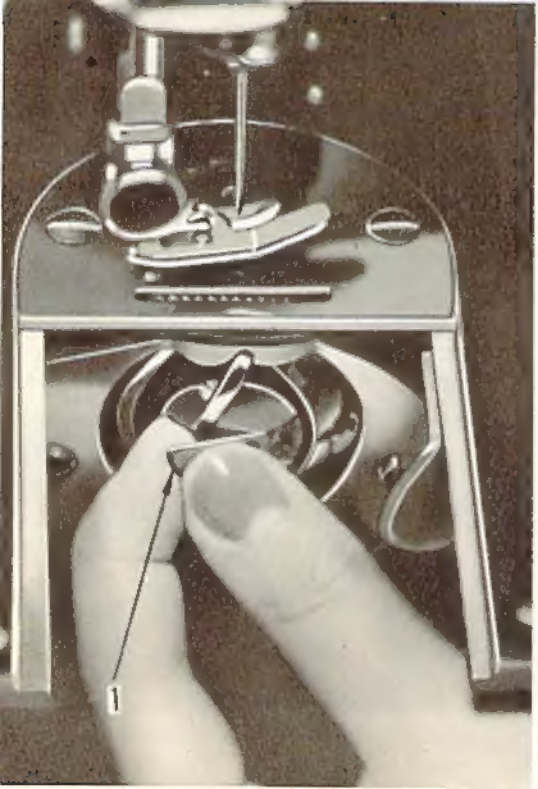
Needles 80/90 - for medium (normal) sewing.

Needles 100/110 - for coarse and heavy sewing.

CLASSES OF WORK	THREAD		LENGTH OF STITCHES
	Cotton	Silk	
Laces, batistes and fine silk.	150-100	160-100	8-12
Fine muslin and linen.....	90-60	100-80	12
Heavy silk, light weight woollens, muslin, etc....	60-40	70-60	17-20
Cotton, flannels.....	40-30	60-50	12-17
Light Tailoring	30-20	50-40	25-30
Heavy fabrics in general....	20-10	40-25	30

THE BOBBIN

The Bobbin contains the supply of thread for the lower stitching mechanism of your machine. It is housed in an easily removed case which you can see when you open the Slide Plate. The following section explains the simple process of removing, winding and replacing the Bobbin. These are quite separate operations so do read each page and carry out the instructions before going on to the next stage on the page which follows.



TO REMOVE THE BOBBIN

Note: Do this when no work is in progress. Turn the Balance Wheel until the needle is at its highest point. Open the Slide Plate and, with forefinger and thumb, take hold of the hinged latch on the Bobbin Case (as shown here).
This will enable you to remove the Bobbin Case easily. The Bobbin itself will fall out of its case if you release your hold on the latch (1).

TO WIND THE BOBBIN...

Loosen the Inner Knob on the Balance Wheel as explained on Page 6. The needle will then move down to its lowest point.

Place a Bobbin on the Bobbin Winder spindle and push it along to the end of the spindle, making sure that the pin on the spindle enters the slot in the Bobbin (4). Place a spool of thread on the pin (1) at the lower right hand edge of the machine, then pass the thread around the disc (2) from below.

Wind the thread on to the left end of the Bobbin (from below and in front of the Bobbin, away from you) seven or eight times.

Press down the flat lever (5) between Bobbin and small rubber wheel (6) until the Bobbin is held firmly in place and cannot move.

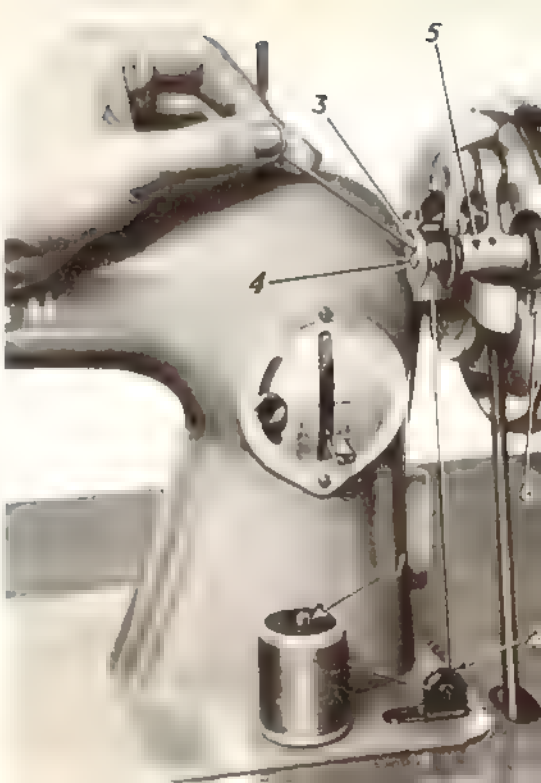
Turn Balance Wheel towards you and commence to operate.

Your Bobbin will now wind. Remember to run the machine slowly to wind Bobbin evenly. When fully wound, your Bobbin will be released automatically, then come to a stop. Break thread and remove Bobbin.

Retighten Inner Knob on Balance Wheel ready for sewing.

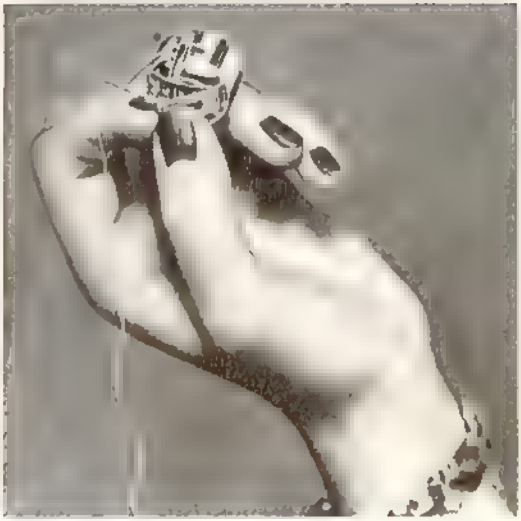
Note: If Bobbin does not wind evenly, adjust the Tension Disc (2), (lower right edge of machine) by loosening the screw and sliding to right or left to achieve required change of tension.

To sew and wind Bobbin simultaneously, do not loosen Inner Knob on Balance Wheel.

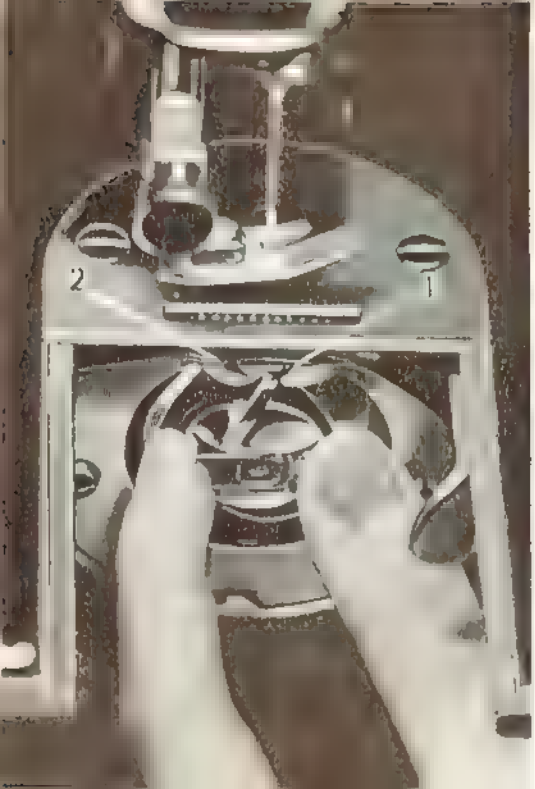


THREAD THE BOBBIN CASE

STAGE 1. (above left).
Take the wound Bobbin in the left hand between thumb and forefinger with the thread coming towards you.
Now take the Bobbin Case in the right hand between thumb and forefinger with metal part uppermost. Insert the Bobbin into the case.
STAGE 2. (above right)
Take the thread, pull through the slot (1)



STAGE 3. (above left).
Pull thread gently towards you, beneath the spring (2) as shown.
STAGE 4. (above right).
Shows the hinged latch (1) held between thumb and forefinger ready for inserting the Bobbin Case into the lower part of the machine
Leave 3 or 4 inches of thread to be taken up by the needle later



INSERT BOBBIN CASE

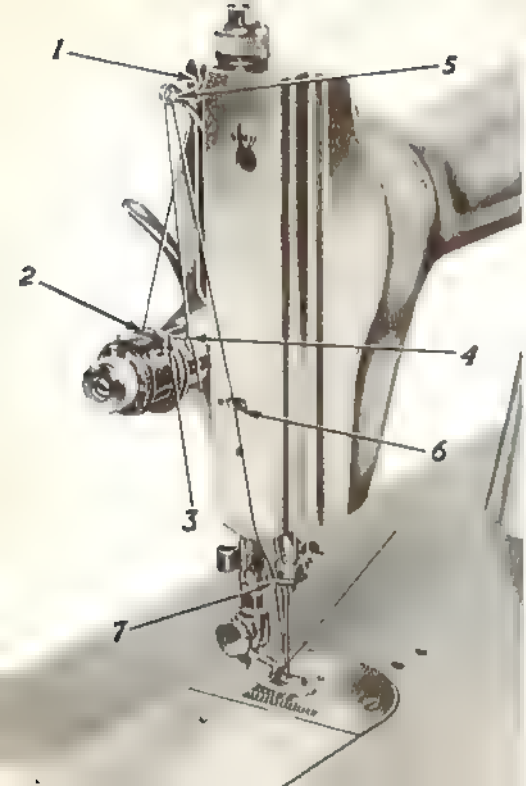
First raise needle to its highest point, by turning the Balance Wheel towards you. With your left hand, hold the Bobbin Case by the hinged latch (as you did when you removed it).

With the metal horn (1) on the Bobbin Case pointing up, and into the notch (2) at the centre of the Bobbin over the centre pin protruding from the race * Then release the latch and press gently into position with metal horn on the bobbin case fitting into the notch. You will hear it click into position. Close the Slide plate

* *The Race is the name of the area surrounding the Bobbin. It is important for you to know more about it. Everything you need to know is fully explained on* *pages 40, 41 & 42.*

THREAD THE MACHINE

On the following page you will find clearly illustrated, easy-to-learn instructions for the threading of the upper part of your machine.

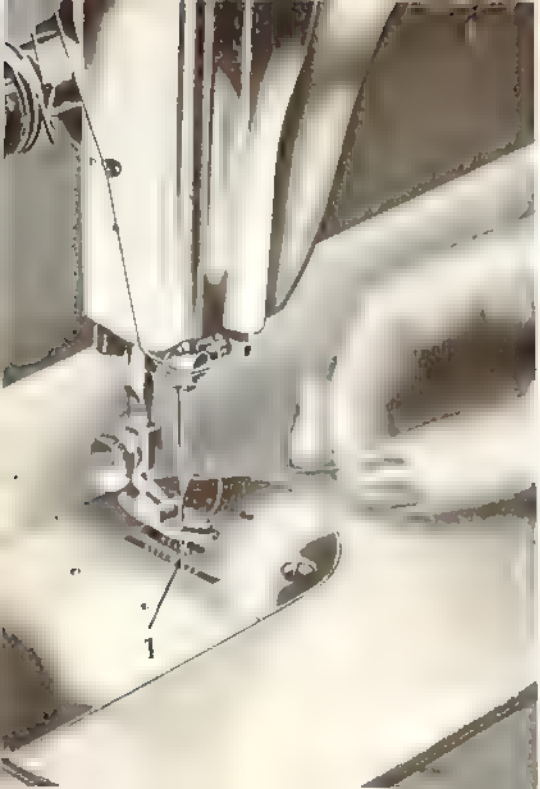


HOW TO THREAD...

Raise the Presser Foot. Turn balance wheel towards you until thread take-up lever (5) is at its highest point. Place a spool of thread on spool pin (top right of machine). Pass the thread through thread guide (1) back left of machine, then down and behind thread tension disc (2), then up between tension thread guard (3) from behind, then down into hook of the take-up spring (4), then up and through the hole in the end of the take-up lever (5) from the back, then down through eyelet (6) in front of face plate, then into wire thread guide (7) at the lower end of needle bar; then from left to right through the eye of the needle. Draw back 6 inches of thread through the eye of the needle.

PREPARE TO SEW

By this stage your material, pins, thread and anything else which you may need should be within reach. All that remains is for you to bring the lower thread up and on to your working surface and place the material in position correctly. This section covers these details and takes you to the stage where, all foregoing details checked, you are quite ready to start.



PULL LOWER THREAD THROUGH...

Before starting to sew, it is important for the lower thread to be brought on to the working surface.

The Thread Take-up Lever should be at its highest point.

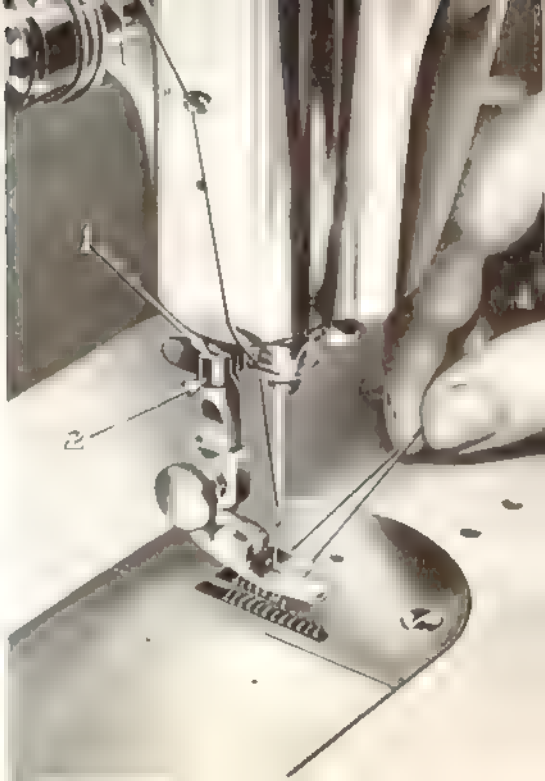
Turn the Balance Wheel by hand towards you until the Thread Take-up Lever has made a complete downward and upward movement. You will now find that the lower (bobbin) thread has come up through the hole (1) beneath the Presser Foot and is looped over the upper (needle) thread.

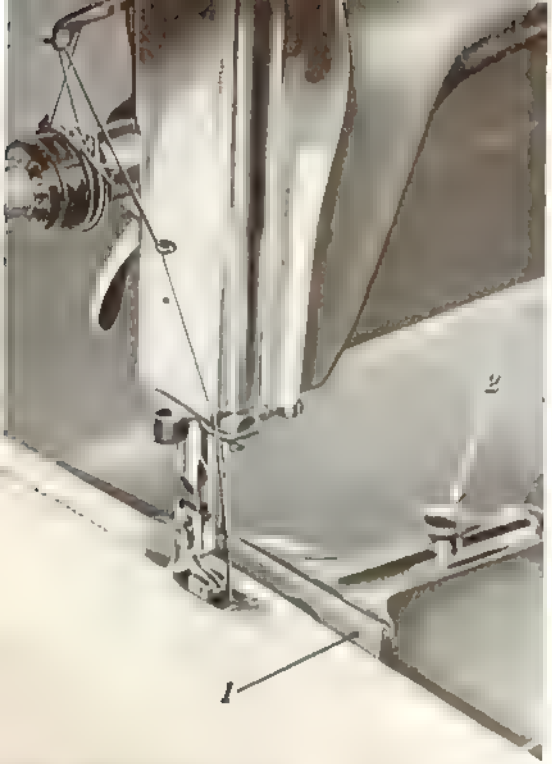
Take hold of the loose end of the upper thread and lift slightly as shown in the illustration. You will then be able to pull the lower thread on to the working surface

READY TO START

Presser foot should be raised.
Bring both the upper and lower threads away from the presser foot and hold as shown
Place the material to be sewn beneath the presser foot which should then be lowered.
Turn the Balance Wheel towards you to lower the needle into material
Adjust stitch length (see page 28) and begin to sew.

Footnote: *Points (1) and (2) show your Thread Cutter, a very useful addition which eliminates the eternal hunt for scissors.*





PRESSER FOOT AND CLOTH GUIDE

This is the normal sewing foot, which on your ALFA is hinged to allow you to sew over thick seams without any difficulty. When finishing a dart or seam a reverse plus forward motion is used. This is done by moving the stitch regulator (illustrated on page 28). When a wide hem is required, or parallel stitching to the edge of the material, use Cloth Guide (1). Attach to the machine with knurled screw (2) provided, screwing into [illegible] illustrated on Oiling Illustration on page 36.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Make the first stage of actual sewing a brief testing period, to check over final details such as stitch tension and pressure of presser foot on material. It's really worth while spending a few minutes on these points in order to make a good start.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Never try to force material through the machine, as this may bend, blunt or break the needle. As the machine feeds without any assistance, it is sufficient simply to guide fabric gently by hand in the direction you want it to be sewn. It is always advisable to test the tension and the stitch length on a piece of spare material before starting to sew the actual garment (see pages 25, 26 and 27).

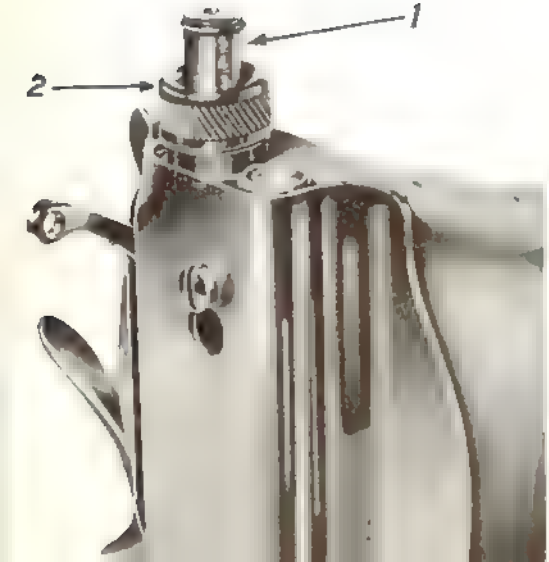
TO REMOVE MATERIAL stop the machine with the needle at its highest point. Raise the Presser Foot and draw the fabric to the left.

TO TURN A CORNER stop the machine at the desired point with the needle in the fabric. Raise the Presser Foot and turn fabric as required, using the needle as a pivot. Lower Presser Foot and continue to sew.

THE PRESSURE OF THE PRESSER FOOT can be adjusted according to the thickness of material used (see page 24).

THE STITCH

This section covers all that you need to know to achieve a correct stitch for whatever task you are undertaking. First check the pressure of the presser foot on the material as explained on page 24. Then go on to pages 25, 26 and 27.



THE PRESSOMATIC...

The Pressomatic (1) enables you to adjust pressure on the Presser Foot when sewing extra thin or extra thick material. Regulate your Pressomatic for varying thicknesses of material as described below.

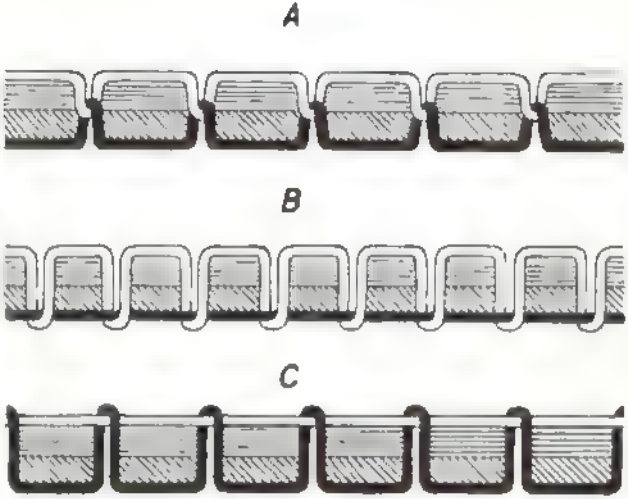
For thick materials: Simply push down the Knurled area (2) of the Pressomatic to enable material to pass freely under the Presser foot.

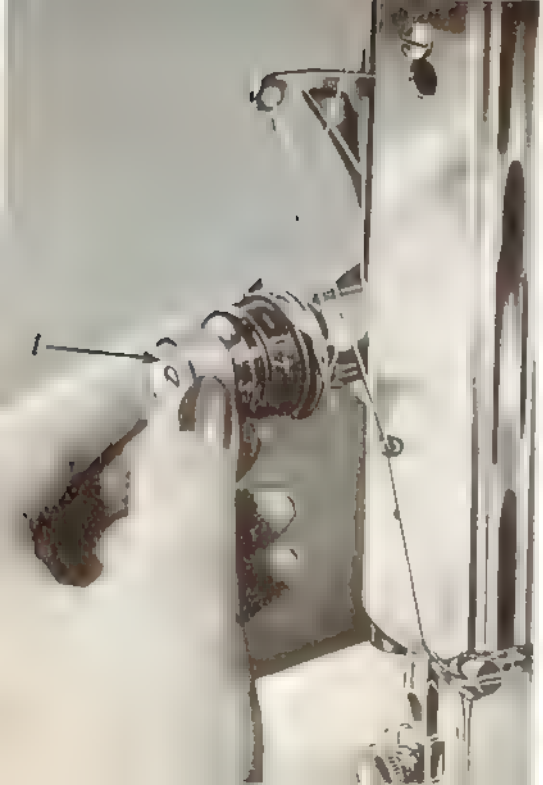
For thin materials: Simply press down the head (1) of the Pressomatic.

For a fabric of medium weight press down on the head (1) of the pressomatic, until only the gauges 3 and 4 are visible above the knurled area.

STITCH FORMATION...

For ordinary stitching the tension on the upper and lower threads should be equal and just sufficiently strong to lock both threads in the centre of the work, as shown (A). If the tension of the Bobbin (lower) thread is too tight, or if that on the needle is too loose, the bobbin thread will be straight along the under side of the material, thus making an imperfect stitch, as shown (B). If the tension on the needle (upper) thread is too tight, or if that on the Bobbin (lower) thread is too loose, the needle thread will lie straight along the upper surface of the material thus making an imperfect stitch as shown (C). To remedy these faults, see pages 26 and 27.





UPPER STITCH TENSION...

You will find that you can usually achieve a correct stitch by varying the tension of the needle (upper) thread.

Make all adjustments with the presser foot down.

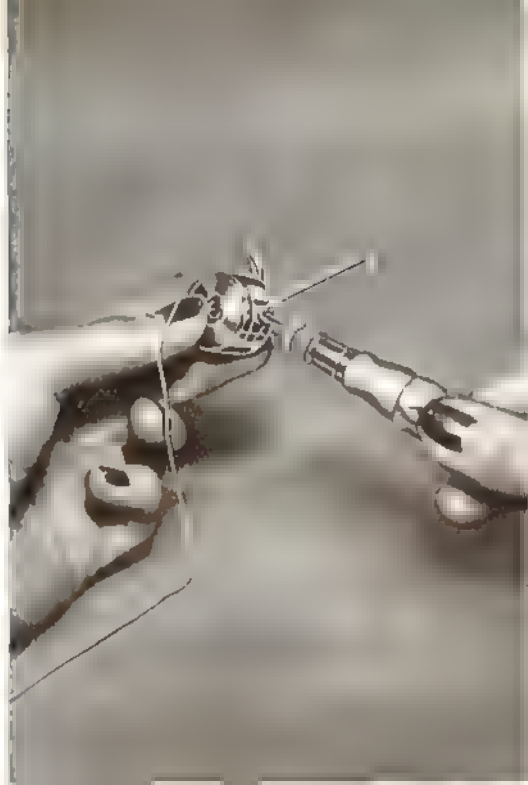
Tension is increased by turning the tension regulator (1) towards you. Tension is decreased by turning the same knob away from you. Don't turn the knob abruptly. Always remember to turn a little by little until correct tension is achieved.

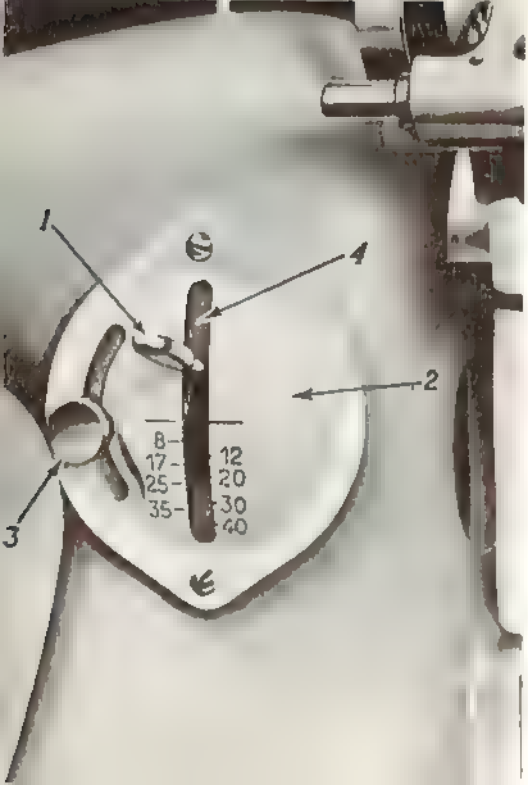
The quality of sewing depends on correct choice of thread.

You will find that you become familiar with the correct tensions through practice (see page 8 for general guide chart).

LOWER STITCH TENSION

Should it become necessary to adjust tension on lower (Bobbin) thread, the adjusting screw in the tension spring on the outside of the Bobbin Case (1) can be tightened to increase tension, or loosened slightly to decrease tension. Use the smaller screwdriver provided.



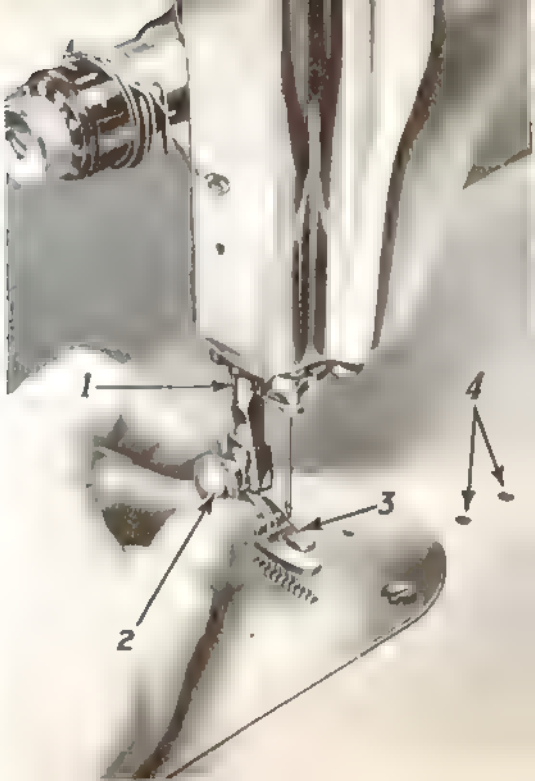


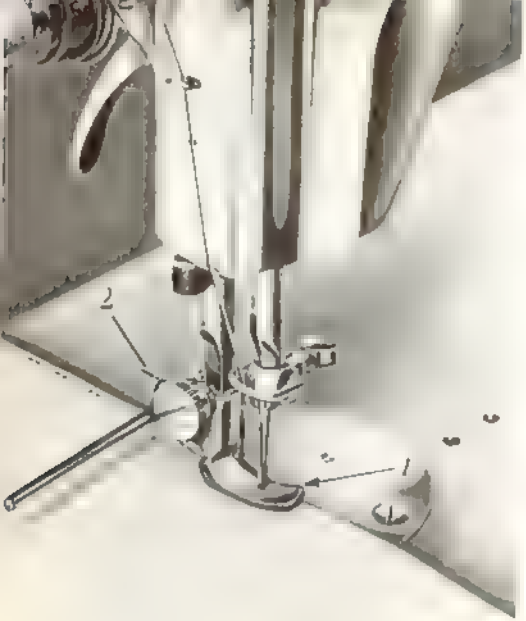
STITCH LENGTH

The length of both forward and backward stitches is controlled by the Stitch Regulator (2) Increase the length of forward stitches by first loosening the screw (3) to the left of the lever (1) and then moving the lever (shown in illustration) downward in slot (4). When stitch length has been selected retighten screw (3). The lower the number, the shorter the stitch. Shorten forward stitches by moving the lever up towards centre line. The higher the number, the longer the stitch. To keep forward and backward stitches uniform, raise screw as far as it will go without changing position at which you have set your lever. Sew in the usual way. To sew backwards push lever upwards until it will go no further and you will obtain a backward stitch of the same length as your forward stitch. Never use machine with lever on centre line.

REMOVE PRESSER FOOT

Lift Presser foot lever. Loosen screw (2) until you are able to remove foot (3). Attach foot required by simply reversing this operation. Point (1) indicates the shaft to which all attachments are screwed



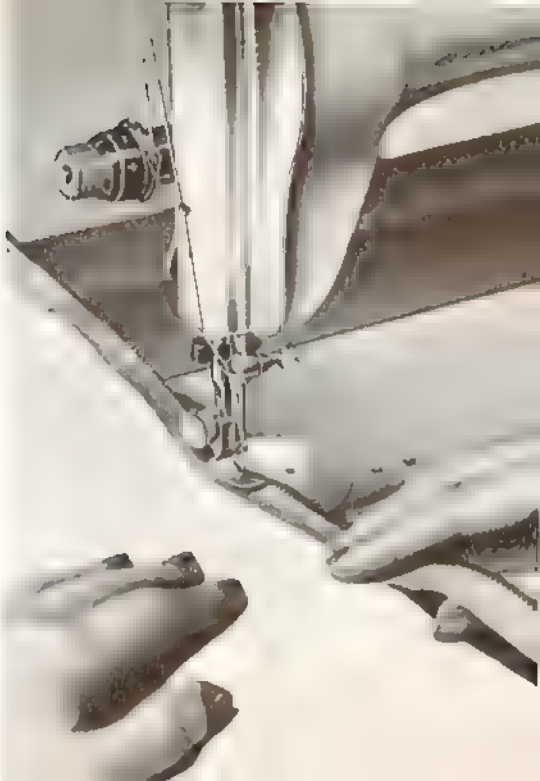


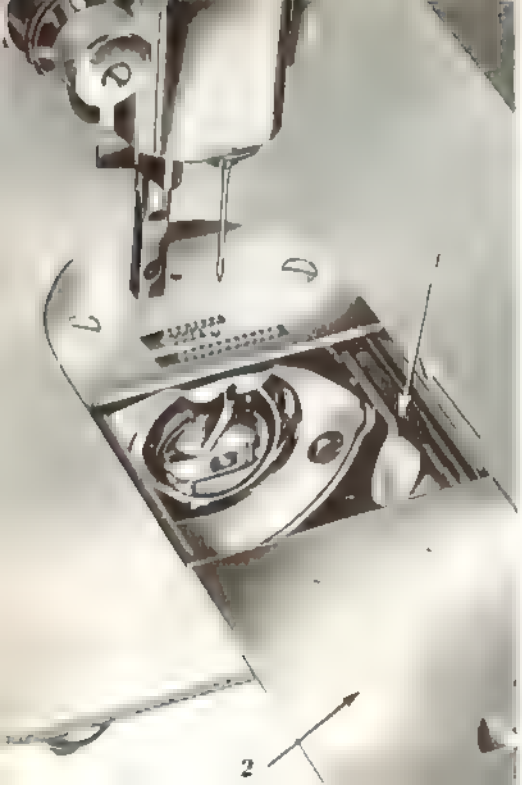
COMBINATION FOOT

This is an important attachment for Quilting Zip Insertion and Cording (see page 31). The illustration on the left shows the Combination Foot with extension bar (1) pushed close for fine margin stitching—as on collar edging, blouse facing, etc. The diagram below shows this foot clearly, point 1 being the movable extension bar and point 2 the screw which enables you to adjust or remove this bar.

ZIP INSERTION

Use Combination Foot with the extension bar removed (half foot) and attach as shown on page 29. Proceed to sew the zip on to the fabric aproximately $\frac{1}{4}$" from the opening.





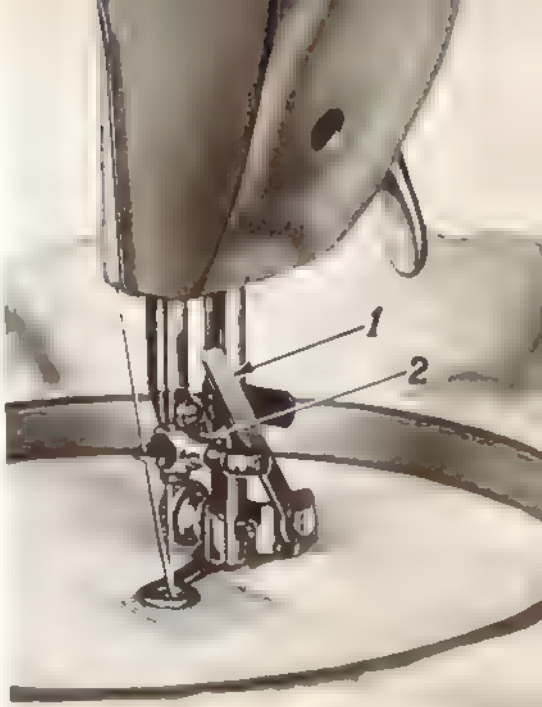
DROP FEED CONTROL

Before carrying out any Darning (or Embroidery) the following minor adjustment is required in the lower part of the machine. Open the Slide Plate, and using the thumb and index finger of your left hand, simply push the elongated bar (1) in the direction indicated by the arrow.

Attatch darning foot as instructed on page 29. Once your Darning or Embroidery is finished reverse this operation to put the machine back in normal working order.

DARNING...

Lower the Feed-teeth as described on page 32, and remove the Presser Foot in use. Fit medium to thick needle. (Stitch length Lever will not now be effective). Raise the Presser Foot Bar and place the special Attachment in position as shown on page 33 ensuring that the Lever Arm (1) rests above the Needle Clamp Screw (2). Thread the machine and pick up the Lower Thread in the normal manner, ensuring that the end of the Upper Thread is passed through the hole in the Attachment, before taking both threads to the rear.



... & EMBROIDERY

Hold the material in both hands, place beneath the Attachment and commence sewing. **Once the Machine is in motion the cloth must not stand still.** For small holes, stitch once around the hole, making a circle large enough to incorporate all frayed parts and cut off both surplus ends of thread. Next cover hole with vertical lines of stitching as close together as possible until hole is covered.

Then stitch slowly from side to side, until hole has again been covered. For larger holes, place a small piece of similar cloth over the hole and secure this by making a series of small darning stitches around the edge. Embroidery is achieved in a similar manner. By using lines of straight stitching very close together, you will be able to fill in a desing.

Various textures can be obtained by moving quickly to make large stitches and slowly to make small stitches.

Greater tension on the material being worked can be achieved by use of a Hand Embroidery Frame.

Remember to raise Feed teeth before you resume normal sewing.

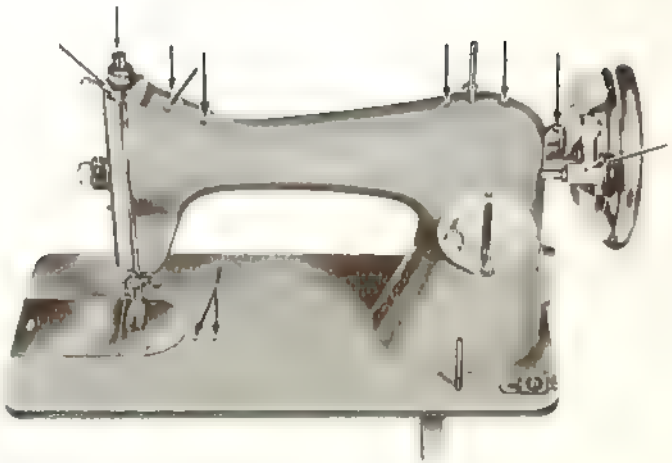
OILING

Regular oiling is essential to the efficient running of your machine. Oil as shown on following pages, but **don't over-oil.**

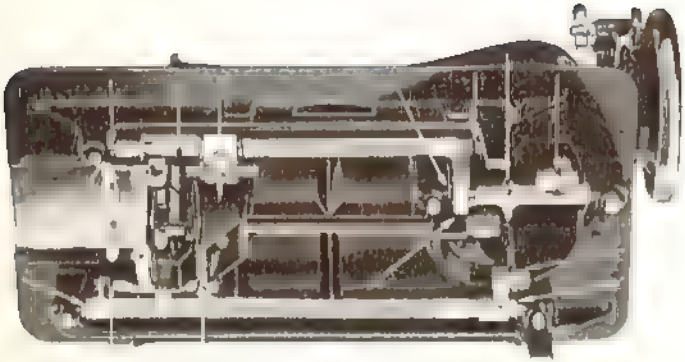
Special Note. After oiling, always run a piece of waste fabric through the machine for a minute or two to remove excess oil and to safeguard against soiling the actual fabric to be worked.

OILING UPPER PART...

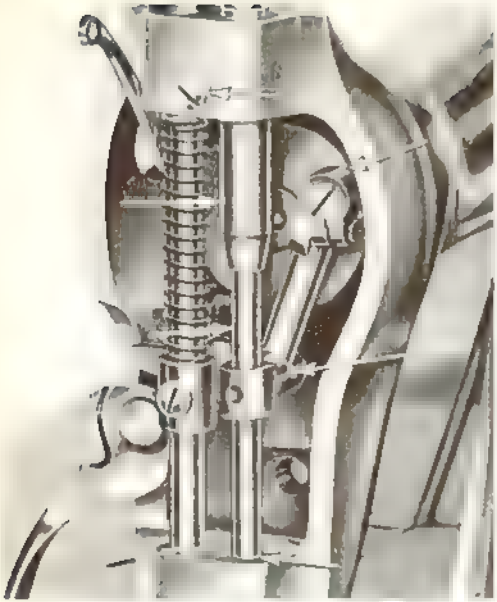
Once a week put one or two drops of oil at each of the seven points indicated here. (Note point 1, which referred to on page 20 in connection with your Cloth Guide).

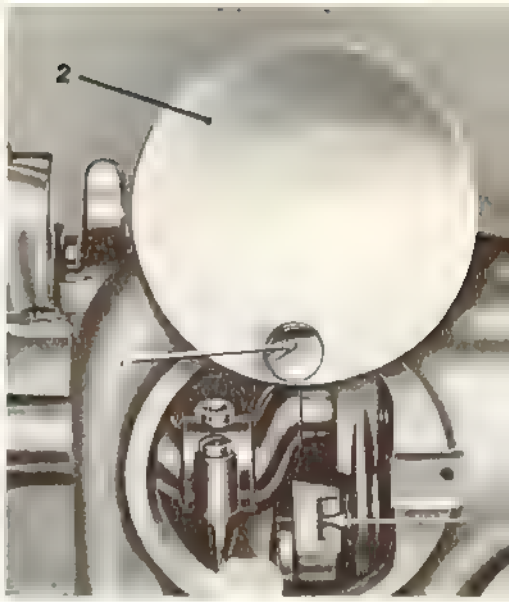


OILING LOWER PART...



Once a month put one or two drops of oil at each of the twelve points indicated here.





Above left. two or three times a year it is advisable to oil the points shown here. The plate at the left hand side of your machine is easily removed by loosening the screw (1) visible at the top

Above right. Back plate, loosen screw 1 at top of plate 2 and swivel plate around to oil the point indicated inside

ELECTRIC MOTOR & WIRING

If your machine is operated by an Electric Motor, the speed of the machine will be governed by the pressure applied to the Foot Control.

WARNING—THIS APPLIANCE MUST BE EARTHED
IMPORTANT

The wires in this mains lead are coloured in accordance with the following code

Green-and-yellow:	Earth
Blue:	Neutral
Brown:	Live

As the colours of the wires in the mains lead of this appliance may not correspond with the coloured markings identifying the terminals in your plug, proceed as follows:

The wire which is coloured green-and-yellow must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked with the letter E or by the earth symbol ⏚ or coloured green or green-and-yellow.

The wire which is coloured blue must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter N or coloured black.

The wire which is coloured brown must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter L or coloured red

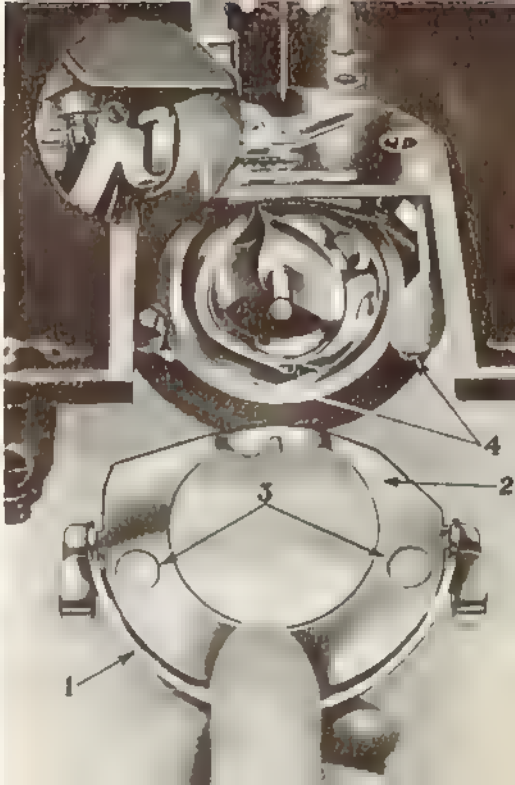
If a 13A (BS 1363) Plug is used this must be protected by a 3A (BS 1362) Fuse. If any other type of Plug is used protect by a 5A Fuse either in the Plug or Adaptor or at the Distribution Board.

ALWAYS DISCONNECT YOUR MACHINE FROM THE MAINS BEFORE TOUCHING ANY ELECTRICAL PARTS.

HAND MACHINE

If your machine is a Hand Model, always turn the handle AWAY from you i. e. Clockwise, to operate. The small plastic hand grip is spring loaded and can be turned in towards the machine for storage purposes. An occasional drop of oil on the two points indicated by the arrows, will be beneficial to its operation.


2


4
2
3
1

CLEAR THE RACE

Photo 1 (left): Here is a clear view of the race after removal of the bobbin case and bobbin Open slide plate Take hold of the protruding part (1) as shown here, and lift sideways and upwards You will now find the race guard in your hand Remove the semi-circular shuttle (2) in the centre of this area by pulling the central protruding pin to the left **Clean the entire opening**, and the two parts removed, with brush provided

Photo 2 (right): First replace the semi-circular shuttle (2) Then replace the race guard by placing the two holes (3) over the screw heads (4) and press the handle (1) into original position. Do not touch the two screws (4) shown in photo 2

OIL THE RACE

When cleaning the race, take the opportunity to oil the point indicated here (1).

FAULTS

If your ALFA is cleaned and oiled regularly there is no reason why you should be hindered by maintenance problems.
If your machine does not seem to be working as it should, you may require the attention of an expert but, more often than not, hitches can be dealt with on the spot, by you. Check the points listed on the following page if your machine isn't working correctly.

FAULTS TO CORRECT

Whenever difficulties arise, always check first to ensure that:

a) The needle is inserted with the **flat side facing right** and as high in the socket as possible.

b) That the Presser Bar Regulator—page 24—is correctly set, i. e., pressed right down for the normal materials, slightly released for thick materials. For darning and embroidery **only** Presser Bar Regulator should be fully released.

c) That the **race** (pages 40-41-42) is clear.

1. **If machine jams,** never try to force it. It is probably due to small piece of thread caught in the Race. Clear as shown on page 40.

2. **If stitches are skipped,** Check needle position (see above). See that the needle is not blunt, or bent, or the wrong size. Check table of threads and needles on page 8.

3. **If threads breaks.** Check needle position (see above).

4. **If needle isn't passing through the presser foot,** see that the presser foot is snug against presser bar and surely clamped by the screw so that the needle can pass through the opening without interference.

5. **If needles break.** Check needle position (see above). Also could be the result of pulling on the work and causing needle to strike against the throat plate, or presser foot being loose on the presser bar, Check table of correct needle, threads. etc., on page 8.

6. **If dust particles** appear in the balance wheel area. This is due to shredding of the Drive Belt, which results from misalignment. To correct this, loosen the small grub screw on the pulley, which attaches to the drive shaft of the motor, then activate the motor by slight pressure on the foot control. You will find that the turning of the shaft with the pulley loosened will throw this pulley into alignment, after which the grub screw should be tightened and the belt will run true.

Industria Gráfica Valverde, S. A.
Gral. Mola, 27 - San Sebastián - 1971

1813031 (5.000-9-71)